THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.
SWIFT.

No. 65.

RESIGNATION OF THE DUKE OF YORK.

The tone of public feeling and conversation has been arrested for the moment by a very unexpected event, the resignation of the COMMANDER in CHIEF. I say unexpected, for though few people imagined that it would be at any great distance after all that has led to it, yet from the determined aspect of things in that quarter, it was generally believed his Royal Highness would make no immediate concessions even in appearance. The circumstance however affords matter of much reflection in every way,—in it's time, it's temper, and it's policy, and we shall soon see how far it can claim the grace of a voluntary action. Let us get rid for a moment of the din of disputation and the tricks of lawyers and placemen, and look back a little upon facts.

It was in the month of October last, after many observations upon the same subject from other quarters, and particularly from this Paper, that Major HOGAN plainly told the world of the Duke's vices: he said that his Royal Highness was in the habit of keeping prostitutes, who had great influence in army promotions; that the reality and notoriety of the matter did great injury to the service; and, above all, that he himself told the Duke of it at the Horse Guards. So true did this statement appear even at that time, that parts of it were copied into one of the most timid Prints of the day; and so convinced of it's truth were the Proprietors of the EXAMINER, that they took up the Major's cause with a zeal proportionate to his own danger as well as desert. His Majesty's Ministers, however, were of an opinion so distinct, either as to the truth or as to the policy of such writings, that they directed the ATTORNEY-GENERAL to proceed against the Major and his commentators, as persons guilty of malice and of lying, and enemies to the public good; and the reader must never forget, that when the Crown prosecutes, the parties accused may in vain have truth on their side: the question of publication is the sole question; truth, if it has any effect, has an effect against them; and indeed it seems but reasonable, that persons who may not speak the truth should have as little liberty to defend it. The success of the "Illustrious Personage" therefore was on this ground secure; if he did not keep mistresses who made a traffic of corruption, the libel was manifestly scandalous and malicious, because it told a falsehood; and if he did, the libel was evidently scandalous and malicious, because it spoke the truth. To such libellers, to men resolved to be so malicious against the Duke as even to speak the truth of him, no mercy was to be shewn: the EXAMINER, it is well understood, had rendered itself particularly obnoxious; notice of the action was delayed to the very last minute; and the Information, as it is called, that is, the manuscript describing the grounds and copying out the subject of the action, which said manuscript is paid for by the page, was of a bulk, prolixity, and repetition sufficient to astonish even the lawyers themselves, whose successes in discovering the longitude of a reader's patience as well as pocket, I need not here describe. Among other difficulties, that of selecting a Counsel who could at once feel impartially and speak eloquently, a difficulty well worth the attention of those electors who object to so many lawyers in Parliament, was not the least perplexing; and the reader, if he has any quickness at combination, will enjoy a good laugh, I dare say, when he hears, that we were about to put our brief into the hands of no less a "disinterested and confidential adviser" than Mr. ADAM. Thus threatened and beset, there appeared no chance whatever of escaping the vengeance of the higher powers; nothing remained but to calculate, after having been taxed to support the Duke's mistresses, how much we were to pay for mentioning that he had any, and to refresh one's philosophy with the opinions of divers great men on the advantages of being cut off from society; and I cannot but take this opportunity of returning my sincere thanks to those various descriptive friends who did so much to console me by familiarizing me to the subject—and especially by pointing out the several beauties of the towns of Dorchester and Gloucester. By one or two of such prosecutions, it was naturally supposed, that the public mind would be daunted; those who knew the truth of the charges in question, would see the folly of publishing it; and those who believed the Duke innocent, would have a convincing proof of his virtue in his valour; for let the courtiers say what they will of popular clamour, it is by very gross degrees indeed that the character of a man of high rank can become really degraded in the public eye: what is called the exposed situation of Princes is nothing at all except to a few prying men, who are generally and deservedly disregarded: the majority of the people do sincerely take their part, and even indulge their passions to a degree that this nation, I am sure, of all others, has very good reason to know; and when the reputation of men so protected receives a mortal stab, it is certainly by suicide and not by assassination. The Duke therefore, to whom the law of libel was of course well explained, re-

joiced, I have no doubt, in a measure so precisely adapted to the continuance as well as concealment of his vices, and was the more eager to procure the punishment of his accusers and to deliver his character from so obnoxious a cloud, in proportion as he promised himself, for the future, an undisturbed sunshine of indulgence in the sultry elysium of his lusts and lavishments.

At that instant, just as the public voice was threatened with dumbness, Mr. WARDLE, whose name sets every fine current flowing in the hearts of sound Englishmen, rose up in the House of Commons, and with a courage and candour equally and universally acknowledged, preferred his charges against the Commander in Chief, gave identity to the various rumours of the day, and thus unlocked every heart and voice upon the very subject which had just been forbidden to the public. The manner in which these charges were received by the Duke's friends was highly curious in point of policy, and shewed at the same time the existence of very strange habits in point of consistency. The very men, who had just been about to punish an individual or two for recommending the Duke's conduct to inquiry, and whom the bare mention of his mistresses seemed to shock beyond endurance, now became very gay on the occasion, and thanked the Honourable Gentleman with I know not how much gratitude for bringing the question to a tangible shape! A tangible shape! What, rejoice in a "tangible shape," after bringing against the Duke's first accusers an action which was to render the whole question a *noli me tangere*, a thing not to be touched. Rejoice in a "tangible shape," when the question was so sore it could not bear the touch of a goose-quill, and when on the approach of the first inquirer it seized in it's defence the strongest arm of the law, brandishing it as the spectre in *Sir Bertrand* wielded the bloody stump against every body who ventured a step into it's haunts! Ah, Messieurs Ministers, it was the tangible accusers you wanted and not the tangible accused, tangible shapes called Printers and Proprietors and not tangible Princes. This joyful gratitude had hardly been expressed, when it changed into a strange kind of passion; nothing was heard on the Ministerial Benches but murmurs of Conspiracy and Jacobinism; and Mr. CANNING, to all seeming, declared that infamy must attach either to the accused or the accuser, though to the astonishment of his auditors he has since denied any such expression. For my part, setting aside the parliamentary view of the phrase, I cannot consider it as so very severe an alternative for Mr. WARDLE, when we consider that infamy was to attach to him *provided* none attached to the COMMANDER in CHIEF; and Mr. WARDLE himself seems to have considered the matter in quite as easy a light, for he proceeded with the greatest coolness to the examination of the witnesses, and though opposed in the first instance by the fears of his own well-wishers and in every other by the frowns of the Duke's, has succeeded in making out a case, which in point of reason, of independent support, and of general sympathy, may be considered as the most triumphant piece of ill success ever experienced by a glorious Minority. Now, leaving the most probable points of the affair out of the question as far as they are merely very probable or even as far as they are denied by the Ministers, there are two or three points, which are acknowledged on all sides to be fully established, such as the Duke's debaucheries, the corruptions in the army, and the bad tendency at least to which these debaucheries and corruptions inevitably lead. These points, so proved and so undeniable, were among the grounds of action, upon which the Proprietors of the *Examiner* were *and perhaps are* to be deprived of speech and of freedom; and the only circumstance to be lamented, as a deficiency in Mr. WARDLE's charges, is the omission of the great moral part of the question. If a Prince like the Duke of YORK is to be dismissed for ignorance, neglect, or corruption, certainly there is no one reason why he should not be dismissed for gross debauchery, which generally argues all three; and he should be dismissed if it is only on this manifest political principle, that high offices are not mere tenures and estates fit for any possessor who can keep them in repair, but ornaments and rewards for persons of high desert, who have a due sense of the reciprocal honour reflected between themselves and their situation, and in every sense of the phrase, can prove themselves the "life of the building." Now without meddling at all with the royal prerogative, and reasoning entirely upon political principles acknowledged by the whole world, the Duke of YORK had of himself no claim whatever to the office of Commander in Chief, because dissipation and disgraceful soldiership, commonly speaking, entitle a man to nothing but a flogging, and in their best excuses have certainly nothing to say that can recommend him to reward. What the Duke has since done that could deserve a continuance in office, we have all witnessed: and so naturally victorious is truth, even when it seems most defeated, that he has felt the necessity of retiring from office in decided opposition to his own majority. A publication, to which Mr. WHITBREAD has so often alluded, calls his Royal Highness CORIOLANUS: I suppose we shall now have another pamphlet to prove that he is CATO:—

Victrix causa Diis placuit, sed victa CATONI:
The Gods and CATO did in this divide:
They chose the conq'ring, he the conquer'd side.
STEPNEY.

It must be confessed, that the Duke will go even beyond his original in this matter. But at what point of time is it that he retires? According to his own account, when "the House had passed a resolution of his *innocence*:" true, as to the participation and connivance; but Mr. BATHURST's Resolution respecting the *moral* combinations of the case had not been submitted to the House, and this Resolution was so worded, and so full of acknowledged fact, that it promised to be the most formidable head in the whole Jacobinical hydra. It is very consistent with the Duke's habits and opinions to make so general a mat-

ter of his innocence: but though a recruit at head-quarters may manage to get his two legs acquitted of impediment, he will find it a hard matter for the surgeons to overlook his hump, and even should they take no notice of it, because the said recruit voluntarily went his way, he would have no business to value himself upon the entire beauty of his person. The House evidently rejected this mode of getting rid of exceptions; and Lord TEMPLE, not one of the nicest of politicians, declared for his part, that though he had entertained a strong opinion of the innocence of the Duke of YORK, as far as corruption was concerned, "he protested against the general assertion of innocence," he thought that till that House had pronounced his innocence upon the various effects of his connexion with Mrs. CLARKE, that "it was too much to come forward with a general assertion of innocence," and once more "he protested against it." Now if Lord TEMPLE turns Protestant on these occasions, who can possibly be behind-hand among the Reformists? Throughout the whole business the Duke has shewn a very great laxity of opinion respecting moral conduct: it was well observed that in his Royal Highness's letter to the Speaker, his regret at the connexion with Mrs. CLARKE "is not founded upon the general bad consequences to the public," and (it might have been added) upon the folly and vice of the connexion itself, but "rather upon the personal consequences resulting to himself;" and in his present Letter to the KING, he makes not the smallest hint or promise respecting such connexions, but talks of his innocence as a matter of pure blissful conscience, and in the very teeth of Mr. BATHURST's Resolution says that he "can no longer be suspected of acting from *any apprehension of the result*, nor be accused of having shrunk from the *full extent* of the inquiry." We have heard of the honour of a Prince; now we have a specimen of his logic and his modesty. The truth is, that from every appearance both of common reason and of fact, his Royal Highness had a very strong apprehension of the result, and did shrink from the full extent of the inquiry. It should be remembered, that Mr. BANKES's motion to address the KING on his son's neglect was negatived by a majority of 85 only, and that those who were disposed to acquit the Duke *officially* on other matters, might very well acquit him on this; but as Mr. BATHURST's motion went to condemn his Royal Highness solely upon the *general principle* of the connexion, the question became one of virtue and vice, which could not be glossed over by any legal forms or flourishes and was impossible not to be understood and appreciated by every man who had the least regard for society. A still less majority, if any at all, was therefore expected on this last formidable occasion: and, as it has since happened, it was negatived solely because the Duke had retired. Thus the Resolution was met, not by the unbiassed consideration of the House, but by a *plea* of the Duke's resignation on the part of Mr. PERCEVAL, who as a man, studious of appearances and professions, well knew how far the question of the Duke's innocence could be carried. If then his Royal Highness had remained in office till the *full extent* of his merits had been discussed, he might have undergone a rebuke, which would not only have rendered his continuance in office most indecent, but have drawn the public vigilance for ever after towards *those habits which he has given us no pledge, or promise, or even hint of dismissing*, habits which of course as they are the oldest so they must be the dearest habits of his life, and as they are the dearest, *will in all human probability last him all his life*. A man of his long indulgences and his gross want of mind, who without self-dignity, without studies, without the least elegant resource, loathes the placid enjoyments of his father's fireside, and flies from prostitute to prostitute for what he calls "the happiness of life," is not likely to give up his pleasures for wisdom he does not understand and virtues he never practised. If such a man as JOHNSON was making vows to get up early till he was past seventy and never could accomplish them, if the great ADDISON took to petty habits of drinking on account of a stupid wife who disregarded him, if PETER the Great could never conquer his fits of anger, in short, if the greatest men, who in their several tracks have shewn such an eager thirst for glory, could not get rid of the little passions that perpetually turned them aside to baser streams, what in the name of reason and experience is to be said for the Duke of YORK, except that he has none of their wisdom, and therefore as far as his folly goes has a better excuse for his vices? I think Mrs. CLARKE had a very good opportunity of understanding his Royal Highness's character, and it was not the least memorable of her observations on him when she said, that were he compelled to live at Oatlands, he would cut his throat. What there is at Oatlands to render it a cave of despair I know not, or how far a prince who lives with his wife has a reasonable ground of suicide; but this I know, that there is an obstinate pride in folly which endears it's errors to it the more they are pointed out, and that a man of weak head who has been quaffing one intoxicating draught till he is forty-five will most likely be drunk all his life. That his Royal Highness has resigned is certainly an excellent thing, since it gives us at once the end for which the enquiry was instituted; but this resignation, like all his other acts, should be shewn in it's proper light, since a true knowledge of the *cause* will be a much greater blessing to the nation than any effect that has been yet produced.

G T

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

GERMANY.

BANKS OF THE ELBE, MARCH 3.—The advices from Austria and Southern Germany seem to leave no hopes of an accommodation between Austria and France, particularly since the news of a peace between Great Britain and the Porte had reached Paris. The French papers assume a tone of irreconcileable discontent and implacability. They were little prepared to hear such accounts from Tu-

key, consequently the movement of troops in France, and the territories of her allies, have increased, and the general opinion is, that Bonaparte will penetrate with a large army from Italy, against Turkey, after having given a decisive turn to the military operations against Austria, while the Russians are to push forward from Moldavia and Wallachia.

Hague, March 18.—Letters from Vienna state, that the Archduke Charles has received more ample power than he ever possessed, and that all the General Officers who command the different armies are directed implicitly to obey his directions in the point of leaving Vienna for Villach. From Bayreuth we learn, that the Austrian garrison of Egra had been considerably reinforced, and that Austrian troops have already appeared in the vicinity of Passau. We are assured, that a correspondence between Austria and England has been carried on for a considerable time, by the way of Trieste, and that the English appear publicly in that city.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

ASSIZES.

Kingston, March 23.—*William John Speed*, a Lieutenant-Colonel, was indicted for bigamy, in marrying Ann Thorn, his former wife being still living. It appeared that in 1785 the prisoner married a Miss Nelson, whose father had been Lord Mayor of London, from whom he was separated in 1792, owing to his improper conduct towards her. In 1799, he married Miss Thorn, the daughter of a respectable market-gardener, near Putney, and shortly afterwards went into Germany, from whence he wrote her a letter, telling her she must not look to him for support, as he was married to another woman, who was still living.—The prisoner urged in his defence, that what he had done was through ignorance, not design. He had been deceived into signing a deed of separation from his first wife, and a motion being made in the Court of King's Bench, Lord Kenyon said, that after that deed, he was as free as air. Thinking he was therefore free from all restraint, he had married Miss Thorn, who refused to live with him when she discovered his former marriage, and said she could hang him. He had caught a rheumatic fever from confinement in a damp dungeon, and had lost his pay, as an officer in custody was not allowed to receive pay. The Lord Chief Baron said, that the fact was unquestionably proved, and he did not give any credit to the language which Lord Kenyon was said to have used, the absurdity of which was known to every Attorney's Clerk.—The Colonel was found guilty, and the Judge said he should consider what degree of punishment he merited.

York Assizes.—*J. Long* was indicted for stabbing or cutting John Crosby, over his left eye, with a pitchfork, whereby his life was despaired of. It appeared that the prisoner rented a stable in York, about which a number of people were collected on the 15th of October. It was said that the prisoner had some women with him in the stable, and the prosecutor being induced to look in, received a stab from a pitchfork over the left eye. The wound was proved to have been inflicted by the prisoner. It was also proved, that he wished he had pushed the fork in his guts, and that he expressed violent threats against some persons who interfered. The Judge observed to the Jury, that if the prosecutor had died, he should have felt it his duty to direct them to find the prisoner guilty of murder. If they thought the case clear, they would of course find him guilty of the crime for which he was indicted. The Jury returned a verdict of—*Manslaughter!* His Lordship observed, that they had mispent their time; as the man was still living, the prisoner could not be guilty of manslaughter—reconsider your verdict. On a question from a Juryman, his Lordship said, they were bound to return a verdict—Guilty, or Not Guilty. They waited some time in the box, and then his Lordship requested them again to retire, which they did, and at length returned a verdict of—*Not Guilty*: on which his Lordship said, "it is your verdict, not mine; how you can acquit your consciences I am at a loss to know."

The trial of *Mary Bateman*, for the murder of Rebecca Perigo, of Bramley, near Leeds, commenced on Friday morning, and continued until near nine o'clock at night. The Jury, without retiring, found her—*Guilty*. The Judge, in a most impressive manner, passed sentence of death upon her, and ordered her body to be given to the surgeons. The prisoner, to delay execution, pleaded pregnancy; on which a Jury of Matrons was impanneled, who retired, and found that she was not with quick child. The execution would, of course, take place on Monday last.—This woman, it will be recollected, poisoned the deceased after having robbed her under the pretence of witchcraft.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, March 20.

The Royal Assent was given, by Commission, to the Annual Indemnity Bill; Scotch Child-murder Bill; and Sugar Bounty and Duty Drawback Bills; and several private Bills.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, March 21.

The Newfoundland Judicature Bill, and British American Fishery Bill, were received from the Commons, and read a first time.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, March 22.

The Bills on the table were forwarded in their respective stages.—Adjourned.

Thursday, March 23.

The Jamaica Free-Port Bill, Marine Mutiny Bill, and Expiring Laws Continuation Bill, were read a third time and passed.—Adjourned.

Friday, March 24.

The Royal Assent was given, by Commission, to the Cape of Good Hope Trade Bill, Marine Mutiny Bill, Lower Canada Spirits Importation Bill, Exchequer Bills Funding Bill, Jamaica Free Port Bill, and nine private Bills.

The British American Fishery Bill was read a third time and passed.

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

Lord Auckland, before the House should proceed to the order of the day, wished to call their Lordships attention to two subjects which would be found deserving of their consideration. The first was, the practice which had of late years prevailed, of putting off the Public Business before Parliament till within a few weeks of the close of the Session. It appeared, from a proceeding recorded in the Votes of the other House (regularly laid on their Lordships' table), that no less than 75 public Bills were hurried through both Houses of Parliament in the last three weeks of the Session of 1808. It was obvious, that to permit the continuance of this practice would tend to the most injurious consequences; and his object in now calling their Lordships attention to it was, that they might turn in their minds by what means an effectual check might be put to it. Perhaps it would be proper, in the first instance, to appoint a Committee to enquire into the state of the facts.

Lord Liverpool admitted the existence of the evil complained of, and the necessity of applying some remedy. Much however, of the inconvenience that had been felt arose from a cause which was in itself a matter of great satisfaction, namely, the increased wealth and prosperity of the country, which rendered the applications to the Legislature more numerous than in former periods. One essential step, perhaps, towards removing the inconvenience, would be to generalize our Legislation a little more than had been the practice of late years. It would be better, upon the whole, to simplify the cases which might require the interposition of Parliament, leaving

minute particulars to find their adjustment gradually by the constructive application of general rules.

The Duke of NORFOLK thought the most effectual remedy would be to convoke Parliament in November; and thus all the business would be finished before the approach of the season when there was only a thin attendance.

Lord AUCKLAND, after some observations on what had fallen from Lord Liverpool, moved, that a Committee should be appointed, to enquire into the number of Bills that had passed last Session, with the dates of their introduction into that House.

The LORD CHANCELLOR approved of the object which the Noble Lord had in view, but begged that he would postpone his motion for the present. The reasons which induced him to make this request he would state on a future day. The motion was accordingly withdrawn.

SPAIN.

Lord AUCKLAND said, that he had carefully perused all the documents on the table respecting the events in Spain; and was sorry that he found nothing in them to shew, that his Majesty's Ministers had made any arrangements to guard against the possibility of the Spanish Navy at Ferrol falling into the hands of the French. The enemy found in Ferrol several sail of the line and frigates, 1500 pieces of ordnance, and a large quantity of naval stores. He could not bring himself to think, that Ministers had been entirely silent upon the subject of preventing this great accession of force to the enemy. He must conceive that some instructions had been sent, and that some communications had passed on the means of guarding against this misfortune; and if such was the fact, he hoped that Ministers would feel the necessity of putting the House in possession of those documents, more especially as they professed an anxiety that the most ample information should be given with regard to every thing that could bear upon the question of their conduct in relation to Spain. His Lordship concluded with a motion for the production of any instructions sent to his Majesty's Military Commanders in Spain, or any communications with the Juntas in that country, relative to the defence of Ferrol, and the security of the squadron lying there.

Lord MULGRAVE said, that his Majesty's Ministers had not been inattentive to the important object adverted to by the Noble Baron. The fact was, that Admiral De Courcey, then stationed at Corunna, made propositions to the Junta of Gallicia for removing the squadron in Ferrol to a place of safety. The answer which he received was expressive of the most confident expectations that the French never would be in a condition to make any impression on Ferrol, but, at the same time, represented, that should that fortress be attacked, the ships of war lying there could not be more beneficially employed than in contributing to its defence. It appeared that the ships could, in fact, be so stationed as to give the most essential assistance in such a state of things; and he trusted that after such an explanation, it would be considered that Ministers could not, with propriety, have pressed any further the consideration of a subject of such delicacy. It was not to be supposed that violence or menace was to be resorted to. He should hope that the Noble Lord would withdraw his motion.

The Duke of NORFOLK said, that the explanation given by the Noble Lord was in his opinion a strong argument for the Noble Lord's persisting in his motion. The remissness which had occurred with regard to Ferrol, increased the apprehension which he entertained respecting a naval force of still greater extent in another quarter.

Lord LIVERPOOL corroborated the statement of Lord Mulgrave, and justified the conduct of Ministers on the score of delicacy, and the necessity of convincing the Spaniards that we were actuated by the most disinterested motives in the assistance which we proffered them. His Lordship further stated, that he expected on Monday to have his Majesty's command to lay before their Lordships a copy of the Treaty with Spain.

Lord GREY hoped that care would be taken to prevent the squadrons in Carthagena and Cadiz from meeting a similar fate to that of Ferrol.

The motion was withdrawn.—Adjourned to Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 20.

RESIGNATION OF THE DUKE OF YORK.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, that before the House proceeded to renew the debate, he would beg leave to take that opportunity of making to them a communication which his Right Hon. Friend (Mr. Bathurst) might think with him was of a nature that rendered further proceeding unnecessary. On last Saturday morning, after the decision of the House had been known, his Royal Highness the Duke of York, of his own immediate and spontaneous motion, waited upon his Majesty, and tendered to him his resignation of the Chief Command of his Majesty's Army; and his Majesty had been graciously pleased to accept of that resignation. The motives which evidently influenced the mind of his Royal Highness in taking that step appeared to him (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) to be of a nature so honourable and proper, that he was sure, when he had stated them to the House, the House would think of them as he did. The Right Hon. Gentleman then proceeded to read from a paper extracts, of which the following is a copy:—

"*The House having, after a most attentive and laborious investigation of the merits of certain allegations preferred against his Royal Highness, passed a resolution of his innocence, he may now approach his Majesty, and may venture to tender to him his resignation of the Chief Command of his Majesty's Army, as his Royal Highness can no longer be suspected of acting from any apprehension of the result, nor be accused of having shrunk from the full extent of an inquiry, which, painful as it has been, he trusts shall appear, even to those who have been disposed to condemn his conduct, to have met with that patience and firmness which can arise only from a conscious feeling of innocence. The motive which influences him arises from the truest sense of duty, and the warmest attachment to his Majesty, from which he has never departed, and which his Majesty has, if possible, confirmed by the affectionate and paternal solicitude which he has shewn for the honour and welfare of his Royal Highness upon this distressing occasion; to him, as a most kind and indulgent Father, as a generous Sovereign, his Royal Highness owes every thing; and his feelings alone would have prompted him to forego all considerations of personal interest in the determination he had taken. It would not become him to say, that he should not quit, with sincere regret, a situation in which his Majesty's confidence and partiality had placed him, and the duties of which it had been his most anxious study and pride, during fourteen years, to discharge with integrity and fidelity—whether he might be allowed to add, with advantage to his Majesty's service, his Majesty was best able to decide.*"

The Right Hon. Gentleman then said, that he made this communication, and left it to the House without a comment. Whether the communication of such an important fact did not render any further proceeding unnecessary, he left it to his Right Hon. Friend to determine.

Mr. BRAGGE BATHURST admitted that the army had sustained a loss by the removal of his Royal Highness. There was nobody more disposed than he was to do justice to the many salutary regulations introduced into the army, under the authority of his Royal Highness, and he did think that the elevated rank of that illustrious person gave a weight to the regulations introduced, which would not be so decisive when the army should devolve to a simple Commoner. But with respect to the Resolution it was his object to move, he must be permitted to say, that when he first proposed that Resolution it stood upon grounds quite independent of the transaction which had just been communicated, and therefore he could not see that, because that transaction had taken place, the necessity of his Resolution was done away with. If it had been the object of

that Resolution to compel his Royal Highness to resign, in that case, that object being already obtained, the motion would be unnecessary. But such had not been the Resolution. Here he was bound to state, that his conviction of the innocence of the Duke of York, both of corruption and connivance, had compelled him to vote against both the Addresses. There was left in his mind no lurking suspicion whatever; and he did approve of the House coming to a decision, Aye or No, on the charge of Corruption; and here his Hon. Friend admitted, that he intended to follow up the Resolution of acquittal with an Address, which after avowing the innocence of the Duke of York, as to corruption or connivance, was then to glance at the other charges, and conclude by the expression of a hope, that his Royal Highness would follow the bright example set by his august Father; but in that sort of proceeding one very material thing was overlooked, the undue interference which had been proved to have existed. With the exception of his Resolution, there was no other measure before the House that was calculated to bring before their consideration the undue interference resulting from that immoral connection, and he therefore thought that it was too important a matter for that House to overlook. As to the averments contained in the Resolutions, they were proved at the bar, by documents that placed them beyond a doubt. But the resignation of his Royal Highness not having been in view at the time he proposed his Resolution, he could not consent that that resignation ought to have any effect in altering his intentions, and this was one of the reasons why he could not accede to the appeal which had been made to him. In the Letter of his Royal Highness to the Speaker, where, in describing the origin of that connection, his Royal Highness expresses his regret that that connection ever had existed, his regret is not founded upon any general bad consequences resulting from it to *the public*, but rather upon the personal consequences resulting *to himself*: and in the Amendment proposed by his Hon. Friend (Mr. Bankes) the undue interference was not mentioned as a consequence resulting from that immoral connection, and if that was not taken notice of, it would appear that the House had not done all that remained for them to do, for hitherto there appeared upon their Journals the minutes of the general evidence, the Letter of the Duke of York, the Resolutions as to the charges of corruption, connivance, and negligence as to immorality; but there had not been as yet any thing specific entered as to the bad consequence of undue interference, which was recorded in the minutes, proved by the documents, and resulting from that immoral connection—so he hoped that his Resolution would not be met by moving the previous question. His motion had in view two objects, admonition to the Duke of York, and example to the country, and while he thought that the country would, upon reflection, approve of the conduct of that House in acquitting the Duke of York of corruption, he at the same time was of opinion, that the sound part of the community would expect the House to come to a decision upon the Resolution he should now put into the hands of the Speaker. The Right Hon. Gentleman concluded with moving the following Resolution:—

"That while this House acknowledges the beneficent effects of the regulations adopted and acted upon by his Royal Highness in the general discharge of his duties as Commander in Chief, it is observed with the deepest regret, that in consequence of a connection the most immoral and unbecoming, a communication on official subjects, and an interference in the distribution of Military Appointments and Promotions, has been allowed to exist, which could not but lead to discredit the official Administration of his Royal Highness, and to give colour and effect, as they have actually done, to transactions the most criminal and disgraceful."

Sir W. Curtis seconded the motion.

Lord Althorpe admitted that it was a great loss to lose the services of those who had discharged their duty; but the loss of the services of the Duke of York was considerably lessened, when they recollected in what manner it had been proved that Royal Duke discharged his duty. He differed also as to the great importance it was thought proper to attach to the elevated rank of that illustrious person. He (Lord Althorpe) was rather disposed to think that such affinity to the throne was not the most recommendatory qualification for the most responsible situation under the Crown—(*Hear! Hear!*)—and he appealed to those who heard him, if their debates were not, in some degree, influenced by the considerations of delicacy, inseparable from any discussion involving the character and honour of one so near his Majesty; and therefore it did appear to him to be of the greatest importance that no person should ever, for the future, be called to such high situations but such as could be completely responsible.—(*Hear! Hear!*)—Another assertion of the Right Hon. Gentleman went to the *total acquittal* of the Duke of York, as to *corruption* or *connivance*. It was not necessary to go into this, but he would state, that he did think the Duke had been proved *guilty* of connivance at the corrupt practices which had taken place; and if his Royal Highness had continued in office, he thought that the House must have passed a sentence upon him that would have rendered his resignation unavoidable. He wished to place it on their Journals, that the Duke of York had resigned. This notification would give consistency to the entire character of their proceedings, and bring it to its proper close. Not, however, that he would be understood to say that he considered removal from office a constitutional punishment; but it would be in this case so far effective, as to preclude the possibility of that Royal Duke being ever re-appointed to a situation he has proved himself *so incompetent to fill*. The Duke of York has lost the confidence of the country *for ever*, and by consequence he must abandon all hopes of ever again returning to that situation.—This was a severe lesson, but it would prove to all who may succeed his Royal Highness hereafter, that it is not within the power of any Sovereign to protect his most favoured servant from the just consequences of the mal-administration of his public duty. The Noble Lord then concluding with moving, "That his Royal Highness the Duke of York having resigned the command of the Army, that House did not now think it necessary to proceed any farther in the consideration of the evidence before the Committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of his Royal Highness, as far as that evidence related to his Royal Highness the Duke of York."

Mr. O'Hara dissented from both the Resolution and the Amendment; he could not help being sorry the Duke of York was no longer at the head of the army; he thought his high rank removed him from the sphere of Ministerial influence, and therefore, that the situation in his hands was not liable to change with every change of Ministers, as it must do if filled by an ordinary person.

Mr. Perceval should have hoped that after the communication which he had made, his Right Hon. Friend would have thought that enough had been done. But if the House was resolved to do something more, he was ready to confess that the Amendment of the Noble Lord was the least offensive of the two, and therefore he would prefer the Amendment to the Resolution, although to the Amendment, unamended, he had very serious objections. He could not have agreed to such a Resolution at any time, because it charged the Duke of York with that which was wholly without foundation. It charged the Duke of York with that of which he had already been *acquitted* by the House. But if it would have been objectionable at any time, it was doubly so now, when the resignation of his Royal Highness might be considered as an atonement for all that remained behind. With regard to the Amendment, he could not agree to it in the language in which it was then conceived. The Noble Lord thought there was proof of connivance on the part of the Duke, and stated distinctly that he ought never to return to office. But he could not agree that there was any *proof of connivance*, and he rather thought that the House would feel some delicacy at adopting an Amendment founded on a ground which they had already negatived. He (Mr. P.) certainly thought that the word *now* ought not to be allowed to stand in the Amendment, as the Noble Lord had fairly explained that it was meant to operate as a perpetual exclusion from the office. But as he did not believe his Royal Highness guilty of corruption, and as he considered a sentence of perpetual exclusion from office a punishment far beyond the offence that had remained be-

hind, he could not agree to the Amendment in its present shape.

Sir C. PRICE did not think his Royal Highness guilty of corruption, but he found from the evidence something highly censurable in the Duke of York's conduct, and therefore he would vote for the Resolution.

Lord FOLKSTONE observed, that the very reason given for objecting to the Amendment, viz. its operating as a perpetual exclusion of his Royal Highness from office, was the very reason why he approved of it. It was necessary that it should appear on the Journals that the House had done something in consequence of the evidence. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer had, instead of reading a *private letter* from the Duke of York, brought a message from his Majesty, or a letter from the Duke of York, announcing his resignation, which might be entered on the Journals, the purpose would be answered. As that was not done, he agreed in the Amendment of his Hon. Friend. He thought that the Duke of York ought to be precluded from ever returning into office, as he had been *guilty of corruption*. But, though that was his reason for voting for the Amendment, he could conceive how others might vote for it for other reasons. They might consider him guilty of a degree of negligence, which ought to prevent his return, even though they acquitted him of corruption.

Lord TEMPLE could not but regret that a private letter of the Duke of York had been brought forward as a ground to justify his public conduct. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had stated, as the words of the Duke of York, that he had resigned when the House had arrived at the period when *his innocence had been declared*. He (Lord T.) had entertained a strong opinion of the innocence of the Duke of York, as far as corruption was concerned; but he protested against the general assertion of his innocence. His Lordship, while he acquitted the Duke of York of corruption, could not but think him highly censurable for permitting the interference of Mrs. Clarke, and, at her recommendation, endeavouring to bring *unworthy persons* into responsible situations. Till the House had pronounced his innocence on these points, it was too much to come forward with a general assertion of innocence, and he protested against it—*(Loud cries of Hear! hear!)*—His Royal Highness had said, that he did not resign from any dread of the discussion in that House. He thought Ministers would have better advised him, if he had said, that he had resigned out of submission to that House, and because he bowed to its opinion.—The Resolution, if it had come forward before, would not have gone far enough—now it went too far. He would therefore vote for the Amendment.

Mr. ADDINGTON supported the Resolution, which he affirmed, if brought forward before, would have facilitated the continuance of the Duke of York in office. The House ought to be guided entirely by its own discretion on this occasion, because it had much better opportunities of being well informed than the public, and much better qualified to decide.

Mr. H. THORNTON was at first doubtful whether he would support the Resolution or the Amendment, but he now rather preferred the Amendment. The Duke of York had certainly displayed a great laxity of principle, in cases not immediately connected with his official situation, as in those of Kennett and O'Meara, and on these he wished to express an opinion. As his Royal Highness had resigned, he would content himself with voting for the Amendment, but wished the word *now* to be struck out.

Mr. WHITBREAD observed, that even if the Amendment had not been submitted, he could not have voted for the Resolution. Had it not been for the gravity with which an Honourable Gentleman (Mr. H. Addington) had spoken, when he said that the Resolution would facilitate the continuance of his Royal Highness in office, he should have thought that he had been bantering. The Resolution stated, that the interference of Mrs. Clarke had a tendency to discredit the official administration of the Duke of York, and to give countenance to very improper transactions, *as had actually been the case (Hear! hear! hear!)* After the passing such a Resolution, he could not imagine it possible how the Duke of York could have continued an hour longer in office. There was another part of the Resolution to which he objected, complimenting the Duke of York for the *advantages* which, through his means, had resulted to the army. He did not mean to attempt to deprive the Duke of whatever merit he could fairly claim on that account, but it had not been fairly proved to him that this merit was at all so *transcendantly brilliant*. Whether the resignation of his Royal Highness proceeded from the idea that the House had actually decided on his innocence, or whether it had been owing to the sense of the very distinguished minority which had decided against him, a circumstance which, in former times, had broken off wars between contending nations, and had produced the most important effects in domestic politics—whether it was because the House had acquitted him of corruption and connivance at corruption—or whether it was because he felt that some proposition, mild comparatively as this was, would be carried by the united voice of the Commons of the Empire, and he might presume that it would have been carried by a great majority; whether it was for any of these reasons that the Duke had thought it neither prudent nor proper to continue any longer, he would not stop to inquire. It was sufficient for them at present that he had retired.—But in respect to this resignation he must say, that the Right Hon. Gentleman opposite (Mr. Perceval) if he really thought the Duke of York innocent, had not done his duty either by the House or by his Royal Highness. If the Right Hon. Gentleman was convinced he was innocent, it was his duty not to have abandoned him, but to have advised him to continue in his office *(Hear! Hear!)* If he thought the Duke of York was innocent, why did he not advise his Majesty not to accept his resignation? Or if it was accepted in opposition to his advice, why did he sit where he then was? The Right Hon. Gentleman might be willing to depart from his own sentiments; but all he, and he believed all others wanted was, that his Royal Highness should resign; and as the resignation had taken place, he thought there was no reason for any farther censure. The worthy Baronets (Members for the City of London) had, therefore come a day after the fair *(Hear! Hear!)* Now, when his Royal Highness had resigned, they had come running and out of breath to express their willingness to vote against the Duke of York. "See now," they said, "only now observe, how ready we are to vote against his Royal Highness." They could not touch the Duke of York while, politically speaking, he was living, but they were among the first to pounce upon the dead carcase. *(A roar of laughter.)* He hoped this trick would not be forgotten by their Constituents. The word *now* Mr. W. thought essentially necessary in the Amendment. Some might suppose, that this word might have a reference to the exclusion of his Royal Highness from the Throne, and therefore he observed, that exclusion from the Throne was at present totally out of the question, and he was sorry that it had been at all alluded to. But the word *now* did not mean a perpetual exclusion from office—though if it were understood that it was in the contemplation of any Minister to restore his Royal Highness to his command, the country would justly think, that the result of this Inquiry had been nothing at all to the purpose; nothing that could possibly satisfy them; nothing with which they ought to be satisfied. He did certainly think it nearly impossible that the Duke of York should be restored to his situation. But as he had not the power of looking into futurity, it was impossible for him to say that circumstances could not occur in which such a resumption might be proper. Suppose, by some almost *miraculous event*, it should not only be proper, but even necessary, that his Royal Highness should resume his office, the word *now* reserved a power of considering this Report over again, and of dealing with it as in such a case might appear just or prudent. The Right Hon. Gentleman had talked of the absence of party spirit, and yet the gentlemen on the opposite side had accused those who sat beside him of party motives in this proceeding—now, if ever there was any thing from which party all along had been excluded, it was this. The Honourable Gentleman who brought forward the Charges had stood alone—he had concerted nothing with any party, either with the party opposite, that of his honourable friends near him, or a third party,

which were distinguished by a term which he would not mention *(the Saints.)* And yet the Honourable Gentleman had 135 Members with him on the Address which he originally proposed. There was a party, the annihilation of which, he hoped, would be among the salutary effects of this inquiry—a party which was not known by the constitution, which Lord Chatham characterised as *a party behind the Throne, which was greater than the Throne itself*; a party which had been audaciously published as existing last summer, without prosecution having taken place in consequence; a party which was not new in our days, as it had existed forty years *(Loud cries of hear! hear!)* He hoped *that party* would be extinguished. If proceedings were instituted against any of those publications which had animadverted on the conduct of the Duke of York, he hoped the publication he alluded to would not escape, for it was one of the foulest libels that could possibly exist *(Hear! Hear! Hear!)* He hoped other Princes would learn to beware of such parties; to take care that they should not be allowed to form or subvert administrations at their pleasure. If the gentlemen opposite owed their official situations to such a party, he hoped that seeing the consequences to which such intrigues led, they would put it down, and thus afford some compensation to their country. The existence of this Secret Cabinet was no new thing in our history. It had been found out by Sir William Temple, in the reign of Charles the Second; and Sir William then told him that it ought not to exist; and that if it was allowed to continue, it would work the overthrow of his Majesty's Family and Crown. *(Loud cries of Hear! Hear!)* An Hon. Gentleman proposed to read the Duke of York a lecture on morality. He (Mr. W.) did not think this a very fit time for such a lecture. A sufficiently long and grave one had been read to his Royal Highness in the course of the examination. The situation of Princes was a very difficult one. They were exposed to greater temptations than others, without the same means of resistance. They almost always wanted that valuable acquisition—an admonishing friend. Such a friend was with them so rare, that to speak the truth to a Prince had been always considered as a characteristic of extreme boldness. Another strong reason why the House should not read the Duke of York a lecture on morality was, the situation in which Princes were placed, of not being allowed to form those connections of the heart which were permitted to every other subject. He did not say that this was a case in point with respect to his Royal Highness. The observation was general; but he thought it was a reason why the House should not readily throw stones at Princes on account of their improper connections. We had one Royal Duke, whose character for morality and correct conduct stood as high as that of any man; and it would not be an easy matter to prize such a character higher than it deserved. *(Alluding, perhaps, to the Duke of Gloucester.)* The Honourable Gentleman proceeded to observe, that he had a few words to state on the subject of a meeting of General Officers, to which he had referred on a former night. He was now informed, that the proposal made at that meeting had been grounded on a letter from a Garrison Commander, in the hand-writing of Sir David Dundas. The proposition had been seconded by the Right Hon. General opposite (the Secretary at War) and it was in consequence of the opposition of one General Officer that it was withdrawn, to be brought forward again on some future opportunity. The Hon. Gentleman had been informed yesterday, by a very respectable person, a bookseller, who, he believed, was known to most of the gentlemen on the other side, that a clergyman had called on him, requesting that he would recommend him to a literary gentlemen to correct a letter to be addressed to his Royal Highness by the Club of General Officers, telling him that he would do wrong were he to resign his situation. The bookseller, however, very properly desired the Rev. Gentleman to take back the Address to the General Officers, informing him that the publication of such a paper was [illegible] could possibly be adopted. [illegible] one harm could result from such meeting [illegible] fact was so, and that, as Cæsar [illegible] simply by using the word "*Quirites*,"* it would be only necessary to remind them that they were soldiers. A national sentiment prevailed that the Son of the King was not a fit person to be Commander in Chief. The present inquiry had demonstrated that it was not fit that the Son of the King should hold that situation. The House had been engaged in this inquiry from the first of February to the 20th of March. We of course saw the *ease* with which the son of the King could be removed. When the charges were first brought forward, Gentlemen on the other side had stepped forward and challenged the Hon. Mover to the inquiry, and said, "Oh! now at length you have come in a tangible shape; and we thank you for giving us an opportunity of meeting the charges." When the Hon. Gentleman, however, had proved his charges, he was told he was to have no thanks at all. For these reasons he thought the son of the King was not a fit person to hold such a situation. There was a time when the favourite son of a King had not been so treated. In a former reign, when the Duke of Cumberland gave offence by concluding the convention of Closter Severn, he was at once removed and disgraced.—Though he (Mr. Whitbread) was not prepared to say, that the Hon. Gentleman who brought forward these charges ought to receive the thanks of the House, because in so doing he had only discharged his duty, he was satisfied he had the thanks of the great majority of the House, and of 999 out of every 1000 individuals throughout the kingdom.

The SECRETARY at WAR said, he had only to repeat what he said on a former night on the subject of the Club of General Officers. From the statement of the Hon. Member that the proceeding was founded on a letter of a Garrison Commander, one would think that a formal Address had been proposed; this, however, was not the case. It was merely the subject of conversation, whether it might be proper to pass a Resolution of thanks to the Duke of York then or at any other time. Nothing farther was done; so it was unnecessary for him to say that he did not second a proposition which had never been made.

Mr. CANNING said, when he first heard of the circumstance alluded to, it had his most decided disapprobation. If there did exist an attempt on the part of any Military Officers to protect the Duke of York against the Commons, a more culpable idea never entered into the heads of men. But, on the other hand, if it was only a simple conversation at a convivial meeting, he saw no occasion to swell it up into a matter of importance.

Mr. PERCEVAL explained, that he had not deserted the Duke of York, as the Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Whitbread) had stated. His Royal Highness had resigned of his own proper motion, and the Hon. Gentleman could hardly expect him (Mr. Perceval) to make any strenuous opposition against his Royal Highness indulging his own inclination.

Mr. BATHURST begged it to be recollected, that the motion now brought forward for the decision of the House, had been in their possession for the last ten days. The question, therefore, was not if he should be allowed to fire at the Commander in Chief after he had retired, but if the motion, which was on the table of the House previous to his retiring, should be withdrawn. He was bound to consider the case as if it were possible, though his Royal Highness had now resigned, that he might return to the situation he lately held at some future period, in which case it was proper that the admonition in the Resolution he had moved, should enter the Journals of the House.

The question was then loudly called for, and Strangers were excluded. We understand, however, that on the question being put on Mr. Bathurst's motion, it was negatived without a division.—Lord Althorpe's Amendment was then put as a distinct motion, when Mr. Perceval moved as an Amendment, that the word *now* be omitted.—On this the House divided,

For Mr. Perceval's Amendment.....235
Against it 112

Majority for omitting the word *now*, ...123

Strangers were not re-admitted after the division, but seve-

* i. e. *People*, in contradistinction to Soldiers.

ral notices were given.—Lord Folkstone fixed the 17th of April next, for further Inquiry into the Minutes of Evidence on the case of the late Commander in Chief.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, March 21.

Sir C. POLE called the attention of the House to the Tenth Report of the Committee on Naval Revision. The Hon. Baronet said, that this Report principally bore upon the neglect of the Victualling Board, the several omissions of which he detailed at some length, and concluded by moving, "That the Reports of the Commissioners of Naval Revision can be of no use, unless the persons employed in the Victualling Board are men of experience, abilities, and integrity."

Mr. R. WARD said, he should move the previous question on this motion, which, though a truism, was meant to fix a stigma on the Admiralty Board. The Hon. Baronet, he said, should have brought forward his charge, had he any to make, in a direct and manly way, and have pointed out the persons he thought improperly appointed to the Victualling Board. He knew very well, however, what the Hon. Baronet meant. It was the appointment of Capt. Welsh and Capt. Stewart, that had given such offence; but these Gentlemen possessed all the qualifications necessary for their situations, and it could not be supposed that because the former officer was a relation of Lord Mulgrave, he was to be objected to on that account. The late Chairman of the Board was incapable from his advanced age, and Mr. Budge was in an ill state of health; these Gentlemen, therefore, had been advised to resign upon pensions.

Mr. H. MARTIN saw no good reason whatever for the late changes. Mr. Marsh was quite equal to the situation; and Mr. Moody, a very able accountant, had also been removed, in order to make room for new dependents, thus burthening the nation with pensions equal almost to the original salaries, and thus increasing the overgrown influence of the Crown.

Mr. W. POLE vindicated the changes which had taken place, as necessary, from the erroneous system which had been previously acted upon, and from the infirmities of the parties.

The previous question having been put, the motion was negatived.

The Irish Malt and Spirit Duty Bill, although supported by Ministers, was lost on a division, there being a majority against it of 13.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, March 22.

The House resolved into a Committee of Supply, when 1,408,000l. were voted for Ordnance for the Navy for the year 1809; 296,000l. for wear and tear on board the Navy, for the year 1809; 314,000l. for Sick and Wounded Seamen and Marines; and 50001. for the Establishment of a Compassionate List for the Royal Navy. These Resolutions were agreed to; the House was resumed: and the Report ordered to be received to-morrow.—Adjourned.

Thursday, March 23.

Mr. HARVEY COMBE obtained leave to bring in a Bill to renew the Sunday Toll at Blackfriars Bridge; and Mr. WILBERFORCE obtained similar leave relative to Westminster Bridge.

Mr. BANKES brought up the Report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the Abuses of the East India Company's Patronage. It was ordered to be printed.

Mr. WHITBREAD gave notice of his intention on a future day, to move for the production of the last Letter of Sir John Moore to the Noble Lord opposite (Castlereagh).

GENERAL CLAVERING.

Upon Mr. C. WYNNE rising to move the resumption of the debate upon the subject of Gen. Clavering,

The SPEAKER took occasion to observe, that he had received a letter from that Officer, asserting his innocence, and expressing his readiness to submit to the jurisdiction of the House, which letter, the Right Hon. Gentleman added, he would read if called upon to do so.

Mr. C. WYNNE could not conceive such a proceeding regular in this instance, as he had not so considered with regard to the letter of the Duke of York, which he had intended to make the subject of a specific motion. This intention, however, he was now induced to wave, in consequence of what had occurred since. The House having resolved, that after the resignation of the Duke of York, it was unnecessary to take any further proceeding relative to his case, and the Right Hon. Gentleman on the opposite side (the Chancellor of the Exchequer), having explained, that the most objectionable passage in the letter was not designed to convey the meaning imputed to it, and which it appeared to him and his friends to import; but still more, understanding that this objectionable passage was inserted in the letter against his Royal Highness's own judgment, he was induced to abandon his intended motion.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER knew nothing of the means of information upon which the Hon. Gentleman grounded his statement respecting any particular paragraph in the letter alluded to. Certainly no such information came from him; but from whatever source it was derived, was immaterial to the main question, for there was not a single position in that letter which he was not fully prepared to maintain, as conformable to a due regard for the principles of the constitution, and a perfect respect for the privileges of the House, as well as a proper solicitude for the ends of public justice.

Mr. WHITBREAD still retained the opinion he had before expressed upon the subject of this letter, namely, that it was highly unconstitutional and derogatory to the privileges of that House. But yet he felt that it was very natural in the Right Hon. Gentleman to entertain a contrary sentiment, as he was stated to be a principal party in the authorship of that letter. Indeed, if his information was correct, that really was the case; and, therefore, it was only the author defending his own production. Enough had been said about this letter to mark the general sentiment with regard to the character of this letter, and to prevent, he hoped, the recurrence of any similar attack upon the privileges of that House.

The Motion being put for resuming the debate, relative to General Clavering,

Lord J. CAMPBELL moved an amendment, that the debate should be deferred till Tuesday, upon the ground that there were some Members at the Assizes.

Mr. WHITBREAD thought the grounds stated quite inadequate.

Sir M. RIDLEY begged Gentlemen to consider the peculiar situation of General Clavering, whose character and prospects were so deeply involved. When the meanest individual was accused in any Court in the country, he was allowed the aid of Counsel to plead his cause, and that was all he applied for in this instance.

After a few words from the SECRETARY at WAR, Mr. R. DUNDAS, and Mr. WM. SMITH, in favour of the Amendment, and from Mr. WILBERFORCE, Sir J. NEWPORT, and Mr. S. LEFEVRE, against it, the original motion for immediately proceeding was carried.

Upon the question being put that General Clavering was guilty of prevarication, &c.

Sir M. RIDLEY re-asserted the innocence of that Officer as to the charge conveyed in the motion, although he admitted his incorrectness in some points, owing to the imperfection of his understanding. Was such incorrectness, he would ask, any matter of astonishment, or to be regarded as improbable, when the embarrassment of other and intelligent witnesses was taken into account: when it was considered that even the Hon. Mover of the inquiry himself, competent as his capacity was, and fully prepared as his mind must have been, for any examination, was yet so confused, that he did not remember what had happened 24 hours immediately preceding, with respect to the number of times he had seen Mrs. Clarke. Now he put it to the House, whether if cross-examination could produce such an instance of confusion in a man of ability, what was to be expected on the part of a person so reared and educated as Gen. Clavering had been—so unaccustomed to interrogation or public speaking as he must be naturally supposed. General Clavering was perfectly aware of the power of the House, and, of course, willing to submit with all humility to its decision. But yet, whatever that decison might be, which, acknowledging his fault as he did most sincerely, would, he hoped,

be tempered with mercy, he trusted to his conscious innocence, and that the opinion of a just and generous public would save his character from suffering—that it would acquit him, at least, of any intentional guilt.

Mr. WHITBREAD could not help observing, that the Hon. Baronet who proposed to defend General Clavering acted rather injudiciously for his purpose in attempting such a direct attack upon his Honourable Friend near him (Mr. Wardle).—If the Honourable Baronet thought that his Honourable Friend was exposed to such attack, let it be made the subject of a distinct motion, and then he would be ready to speak upon it. At present, he would content himself with shewing, that there was no comparison whatever between the two cases. For what was the fact? His Honourable Friend was examined upon a totally unexpected occasion, where he could have no possible object or interest but to tell the truth, if his memory were correct. But how did the case stand with respect to General Clavering? He came forward voluntarily and deliberately, in order to acquit the Duke of York, by overthrowing the credit of the principal witness against him—and how did this Officer afterwards appear? Why, colluding with Mr. Lowten to deceive that House. At one time the accused said, that he came before the House voluntarily, without consulting any one, and at another, that he was involuntary, but that Mr. Lowten told him he must write a letter to the Attorney-General, requiring to be called, &c. But when Mr. Lowten was examined, he contradicted this statement. It had been stated that General Clavering was anxious to correct his mistakes the moment he became sensible of them; but it was strange that no such sensibility appeared until the letters were produced which directly contradicted him. But, even if this officer had not come before the House, did it follow that he would have escaped? he could personally assure the House that he should not. But he would put it to the House, whether, if the whole of the circumstances connected with General Clavering had occurred in one sitting, it would have been possible for him to escape being immediately committed for prevarication, being sent forthwith from the bar to Newgate? If the incapacity of General Clavering was really such as was now alleged, how came he qualified for the Staff—for a command in Ireland—for a command in Malta? Another attempt in favour of this Officer was an appeal to humanity. It was asked, will you not feel for his family? But had not Captain Sandon a family also, and why not feel for them? Although that prisoner's family and friends were mute, although they had no friend in Parliament to trumpet forth their merit, or excite sympathy in their favour; they were on the score of humanity as much entitled to attention as others—but justice was not to be suspended upon such pleas. There was, as the poet observed, "in too tender merey something cruel:"—mercy to certain delinquents would be cruelty to the public, and it was of vital importance to the interests of justice, and to the safety of every thing valuable belonging to man, that false testimony should meet degradation and punishment.—If then, such prevarication as that of General Clavering were allowed to escape—if an example were not made of him for the intimidation of others—if Sandon were to be detained in prison while impunity was granted to General Clavering, what reproach would that House incur? how often would the words of the poet be repeated to people in high station:—

"And if rich men like us were to swing,
"Twould thin the land such numbers to string."

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, that he hoped there were few, very few, if any, of the rank and station of General Clavering, who could be capable of involving themselves in a similar predicament. He could not admit the force of a reason that had been assigned, grounded upon the alleged fact that many of the friends of General Clavering were now absent, who were competent to set up a satisfactory defence of that Gentleman's evidence, because, upon a cool and impartial review of that evidence, he did not think that it admitted of any defence whatsoever. He thought it incapable of defence. It had been argued, that many of the answers given by Gen. Clavering, were such, as proved that he rather misunderstood the nature of the questions, than designedly gave false answers to them. He could not agree in that opinion, and in considering this question, it was not to be forgotten that General Clavering volunteered in his evidence, and had set out with wilful misrepresentations from the beginning. General Clavering had stated, at one time, that he came forward voluntarily, and afterwards deposed, that he was urged by Mr. Lowten to come forward. This assertion was subsequently contradicted by Mr. Lowten; but the fact with respect to which he had been most directly and manifestly contradicted, was respecting that of his communication with Mrs. Clarke. This was the fact in which he had completely falsified his testimony; for he persisted in denying any communication on the subject of traffic for promotion with Mrs. Clarke; and it appeared afterwards, that he had offered Mrs. Clarke one thousand pounds for the exercise of her supposed influence. And there was another circumstance with respect to his evidence that he was sorry to be compelled to advert to: he would ask, what brought forward Gen. Clavering a second time?—An anxiety to correct any involuntary misstatement of which, in the course of his former testimony, he had been involuntarily guilty? He feared that the General had no such motive. He believed that the General was influenced rather by the written documents which had appeared. He was urged to come forward on account of the production of his own letters, to do away their impression against himself, or to reconcile by an effort that must be overstrained the contents of those letters with his former testimony. Upon the whole, he felt himself called upon to vote for the Motion.

Mr. WHARTON said, that in his opinion a line ought to be drawn between shuffling, prevarication, and contradiction. Nor did he think that the rank or consequence of General Clavering ought to hold him out as an object of the vengeance of that House, any more than that it should screen him from its punishment. He thought the House ought to take into its consideration the embarrassing situation in which the General was placed; and that he seemed evidently amused to such examinations.

Mr. ELLISON said, he was bound to do his duty, whatever the rank of the party might be. He had heard so much of the distinctions between shuffling, prevarication, and contradiction, from the professional men in that House, that he was perfectly puzzled how to define them properly. He had never seen a more gross and wanton instance of prevarication; nor did he think that high rank and connections ought to screen such an offender.

Mr. C. WYNNE said, he felt most severely at being obliged to institute the present proceedings against a man of Gen. Clavering's rank and family: but he felt it a duty which he ought not to neglect. If this was to be passed over, the Standing Order of the House, with regard to prevarication, must be considered as a dead letter.

The Gallery was then cleared, and we understand that the charge of prevarication was carried against General Clavering without a division; and that he was ordered to be taken into the custody of the Serjeant at Arms.—Adjourned.

Friday, March 24.

Sir W. CURTIS obtained leave to bring in a bill for removing the scite of Smithfield Market to a field near Bagnigge Wells.

Mr. MELLISH obtained leave to bring in a bill for incorporating certain individuals as a Gas Light Company.

Mr. WHITBREAD stated that he had seen in an account presented from the Stamp Office an article charging a sum for "Incidents." He wished Ministers to explain what was meant by such an item in a public account.—(*No answer given.*)

Mr. GILLS wished to know whether any proceedings had been instituted against Dr. MAYNE, who was alluded to in the Thirteenth Report of the Committee of Naval Inquiry as having entered into a contract with the Transport Board, on account of which the Doctor had received a sum of money, but had not performed the contract.

Mr. ROSE was happy to inform the Hon. Gentleman that legal proceedings had been instituted against the Doctor.

GENERAL CLAVERING.

Mr. WYNNE moved, that Gen. Clavering, having been found guilty by the House of prevarication, and being now in the custody of the Serjeant at Arms, be committed to Newgate.

Ordered *nem. con.*—Adjourned to Monday.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

J. N. Rayner, Ely, linen-draper, March 25, April 4, May 2, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Bourdillon and Hewitt, Friday-street.

G. Blakey, sen. Stepney, ship-owner, March 28, April 8, May 2, at eleven, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Leigh and Mason, New Bridge-street.

J. P. Brothers, Aldermanbury, jeweller, March 28, April 15, May 2, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Frowd and Blandford, Temple.

J. Nevett, Broseley, Shropshire, coal-dealer, April 12, 13, May 2, at twelve, at the Tontine Inn, Madeley. Attorney, Mr. Pritchard, Broseley.

W. Prigg, Ipswich, victualler, April 3, 4, May 2, at eleven, at the White Horse, Ipswich. Attorney, Mr. Jackaman, Ipswich.

H. Holland, Dawlish, Devonshire, brickmaker, March 28, April 6, May 2, at eleven, at the King's Arms, Chudleigh. Attorney, Mr. J. Tozer, West Teignmouth.

J. Philcox, Brighthelmstone, carpenter, April 6, 7, May 2, at ten, at the White Horse Inn, Brighthelmstone. Attorney, Mr. Hill, Brighthelmstone.

P. Forster, Great Yarmouth, bookseller, April 3, at four, 4, at ten, May 2, at four, at the Star, Great Yarmouth. Attorney, Mr. Cory, jun. Great Yarmouth.

CERTIFICATES—APRIL 11.

J. Arblaster, Stafford, flour-dealer.

W. Dean, Kenton-street, Russell-square, shopkeeper.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

At the Court at the Queen's Palace, the 22d March, 1809, Present, the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

This day the Right Hon. Gen. Sir David Dundas, K. B. was, by his Majesty's Command, sworn of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and took his place at the Board accordingly.

Whitehall, March 25.

The King has been pleased to constitute and appoint the Right Hon. General Sir David Dundas, K. B. to be Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's Land Forces in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

BANKRUPTS.

Wm. Wrangham, Seething-lane, money-scrivener, to surrender March 28, April 4, May 6, at ten, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Parnther and Son, London-street, Fenchurch-street.

Wm. Mason, Back-street, Horsleydown, victualler, March 28, April 8, May 6, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Hodgson, Clement's-inn.

T. Hunt, York, money-scrivener, April 1, 8, May 6, at twelve, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Moreton, Furnival's-inn, London.

Wm. Williams, Pentonville, factor, April 8, 11, May 6, at one, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Wilde, Warwick-square, Newgate-street.

T. Davies, Birmingham, dealer in coals, April 7, at four, 8, at one, May 6, at twelve, at the Shakespeare Tavern, Birmingham. Attornies, Messrs. Spurrier and Ingleby, Birmingham.

T. M. Slade, Old Bond-street, picture dealer, April 1, 8, May 6, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Walls, East-street, Red Lion-square.

S. Norris, Sheffield, York, razor-smith, April 7, 8, May 6, at eleven, at the Angel Inn, Sheffield. Attorney, Mr. C. Brookfield, Sheffield.

G. Egler, Portsea, Southampton, miller, April 5, at one, 6, at ten, May 6, at eleven, at the Blue Posts Inn, Portsmouth. Attorney, Mr. Poulden, Portsea.

J. Croton, Drury-lane, linen draper, April 1, 8, May 6, at twelve, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Tagg, Spread Eagle-court, Threadneedle-street.

CERTIFICATES—APRIL 15.

T. Waghorn, Rumford, Essex, draper and tailor.—J. Brown, Little East Cheap, cheesemonger.—E. Craven, Clayton-le-Woods, Lancaster, cotton and muslin manufacturer.—J. Macaulay, P. Whytock, and J. Duncan, Liverpool, merchants.—E. Earnsby, Atherstone, Warwick, linen-draper.—J. Woolf, Liverpool, merchant.—J. Thomas, Manchester, cotton-spinner.—T. Fraser, Wells-street, Middlesex, coach-spring-manufacturer.

SATURDAY—HOLIDAY.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, MARCH 26.

It is said to be the *general opinion* on the Continent that BONAPARTE, "after having given a decisive turn to the military operations against Austria," will invade Turkey with a large army from Italy. How the Newsmongers on the Banks of the Elbe can gather the general opinion I do not know; but from the easiness with which they bring about these victories for BONAPARTE, one may very well perceive their own conclusions as to what *must* be the general opinion.—Russia, they say, is to push forward from Moldavia and Wallachia, and notwithstanding the eagerness with which the London Journalists assault every petty captain of a trading vessel for his Russian rumours against France, there can be little doubt that the Emperor ALEXANDER will "push forward" any where and against any body while he has a few versts of territory to tempt him on. Setting aside the advantages of foreign possession, where any really exist, it is wonderful to see the passion which monarchs have for sheer common earth. A professed conqueror may reasonably disturb his neighbours and the whole world, since his domestic possessions, and his very existence, generally depend upon constant action; but that a man, like the Russian Emperor, who possesses more landed territory than his subjects will be able to cultivate for ages, should send those subjects to procure more ground for him, is as mad a piece of avarice as that of the miser who starves in the midst of what he can use, to obtain what will be doubly useless. It is the disease of the school-girl, who forsakes her proper nourishment and destroys her solids, to wreak her appetite on chalk and tobacco-pipes. History in vain writes for such men: common reason in vain makes its way now and then at its own peril to the throne; kings, who should be the life of their courtiers, still persist in being their creatures, and thus it is that in spite of the idolatry which like other creatures they receive from designing worshippers, they pursue their brilliant expeditions and grand schemes merely to become a bye-word, or no word at all, with posterity. The jangling of a few bells, or the distant cough of an

old gun or two, shall set the hearts of all the quidnuncs dancing: but even in victories the most easy, and therefore apparently the most welcome to one's feelings, we generally pay very dearly at last for our gaiety. Our late conquest of Martinique for instance is very good, as far as it diminishes the effect of the French name (no small power of itself now-a-days), or as it helps to free the American seas from the infestment of privateers; but all this good soon wears away; the diminution of the French glory is at best but partially discovered on the Continent, and perhaps will have very little effect, even where it is discovered, since our late abandonment of Spain: privateering, a species of warfare, which depends on individual enterprise rather than national help, is not easily affected by small national disasters in the present occupied state of our marine; and then in the course of a year VICTOR HUGUES and his men, seasoned as they are to fiery climates, will be the very persons to send out upon eastern expeditions; and all this while our new acquisition becomes an absolute burden to us, giving us more land than we know how to use, requiring new drains of men and money at the most critical period of our history, and what is worse, opening a new source of Ministerial influence and incapacity in the appointment of expensive places. If BONAPARTE has really inspired our Government with joy and pride by his famous speech about ships, colonies, and commerce, he laughs heartily at them in his turn. That speech, if he really made it, I take to be as gross a piece of quackery and artifice as any by which he ever diverted our attention and dissipated our resources.

In the mean time Austria is said to be rousing all her powers for the contest, and patriotic poems it seems are spread abroad from the pen of M. VON COLLIN, one of the Aulic Council, of that very council, which endeavoured to fight against BONAPARTE by corruption and by the vilest court partialities. A German courtier become a TYRTEUS! I have heard of a great man who said, that if he had the power of writing all the national ballads, he would want nothing else to make the people follow him; but this man never talked of holding a place at the same time under an absolute monarch. What is the use of singing verses to a people, the clanking of whose chains would spoil the harmony of a ministring angel?—The best thing that the Austrian Government has done, if it has really done it, is the entrustment of full military powers to the Archduke CHARLES, the only "legitimate" Prince in Europe of the least military respectability. But oh this delay, this delay! The old Courts never leave off their bravadoes and their raking till they are on their death-beds, and then they give the physician ample powers to cure them! The inhabitants of Cadiz murdered their Governor the other day, and imprisoned one of the Supreme Junta; and what does the new Governor promise them? He acknowledges to them in the following article, which is the only one worth copying from his Proclamation, the precise truth which the EXAMINER has so often told of the legitimate Central Junta, and for the reiteration of which among other things he has been called God knows how many sorts of Jacobins and Anti-Spaniards:—

"As it appears the *public discontents* have in a great measure arisen from the *reserve* that has hitherto been maintained with respect to the *circulation of public news*, care shall be taken to give ample satisfaction on this head, by circulating, with the greatest care and punctuality, every thing that shall occur."

One grows sick of these things.

Sir DAVID DUNDAS, the new Commander in Chief, is the 34th or 35th General on the list, but enjoys the reputation of having been an active and upright officer. People however are at a loss to conceive what those very arduous duties could have been of which the Duke's eulogists talked so much, when the whole burdens of the office are transferred with such ease to the shoulders of a grey-headed old gentleman, who has enjoyed his *retired allowance*, unless I am much mistaken, for four years past, and is at the head of that venerable body, the Chelsea Pensioners. Is Sir DAVID in possession of any secret by which he can bear his burden as if he had four hands instead of two,—any military elixir by which, in the shape of an old man, he can enjoy all the hidden virtues of a young one?

Mr. WARDLE, after his labours, is enjoying his well-earned feast of applause. The City of Canterbury has already voted him it's freedom; London is said to be about to address him, and there is to be a meeting in Westminster Hall next Wednesday for the purpose of returning thanks to himself and three of his spirited coadjutors, Lord FOLKSTONE, Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, and Mr. WHITBREAD. At that meeting, I trust, the great question of Parliamentary reform will be brought forward once more, for it will be perfectly seasonable on such an occasion. Reform is no longer an unseen being, mentioned only in the prayers of good men, and heard only in the responses of their hearts: Mr. WARDLE has given that wandering and abused spirit a "local habitation" as well as a name, and incense must never cease burning on her altar till our proper atsmophere is restored, till the vermin that thicken between the sun and us threaten us no longer with the loss of light and life, and Britain stands out once more a glorious landmark to the nations.

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ATTACK ON MARTINIQUE.

Intelligence has been received by the Ilam, arrived at Liverpool from Barbadoes, which she left on the 14th of February, of an attack having been made by our troops on the island of Martinique; the whole of which, with the exception of Fort Bourbon, which was expected to surrender in a few days, was in our possession. The details of the attack are given at considerable length in the *Barbadoes Mercury*, from which we extract the substance of the narrative:—

The expedition arrived off Martinique on the 29th of January. On the morning of the 30th they separated in two divisions, the Acasta leading that with the division of the army under the Commander in Chief and Sir George Prevost, intended to effect a landing in Bay Robert; while the Admiral, Sir A. Cochrane, proceeded with that under Major-General Maitland, and entered the bay of St. Luce.

The Commander in Chief immediately issued a Proclamation, inviting the inhabitants to submit immediately to his Majesty's forces, holding on the one hand the advantages they would derive from quiet submission, and on the other the calamity that would arise from a fruitless resistance.

In the afternoon of the 30th, the division under the immediate command of Lieutenant-General Beckwith, effected a landing at Robert; Sir G. Prevost, and Brigadier General Houghton, with the first Brigade, landed first, and advanced the same evening some distance into the country. This brigade consisted of the 7th regiment, 23d, and five companies of the 1st West India regiment. The second brigade consisted of the 8th regiment, the 13th, and four companies of the 1st West India regiment. The reserve, commanded by Lieut. Col. Blackwell, consisted of the 3d battalion 60th regiment, the flank companies of the 25th regiment, the 4th battalion of the 60th, and the 4th West India regiment. Trinity surrendered on the 31st.

The second division landed on the 30th at St. Luce. The first brigade, led by Major-General Maitland, consisted of the 63d regiment, and York Rangers. The second brigade, consisted of the flank companies of the 15th and 46th regiments, the 15th regiment, York L. I. Volunteers, and 8th W. I. regiment. The reserve, commanded by Lieut. Colonel M'Nair, consisted of the 90th regiment, and the 3d West India.

The fort of Cape Solomon was taken possession of, and positions were taken for attacking Pigeon Island, which held out till the 4th of February, and then surrendered at discretion, nearly sixty men on the part of the enemy having been killed and wounded during the bombardment. Five officers and 130 privates surrendered prisoners of war,

In the mean time Major-General Maitland with the main body of his division, advanced to Lamentin. Lieut. General Beckwith and Sir G. Prevost, proceeded towards Bruno and Sourrier, having frequent skirmishes with the enemy on their march. On the 2d of February they had a more general action with the enemy in the neighbourhood of Sourrier, a height which affords a commanding situation for attacking Fort Bourbon. The possession of this height was obstinately contested by the enemy for several hours. They repeatedly charged our troops, who as often received them on the point of the bayonet. The enemy were at length driven from their position, and our troops obtained possession of the height. The whole of the details of this affair had not reached Barbadoes at the last date of these papers (the 11th ult.), our loss is, however, stated at 72 men killed, and 240 wounded. Amongst the officers are, Captain Taylor of the 7th, Major Maxwell of the 8th, and Captain Sinclair, of the 25th, killed; and Lieutenant-Colonel Packenham, of the 7th, Majors Campbell and Turner of the Royal West India Rangers, and Captain Gladstanes, of the 3d West India regiment, wounded. Lieutenant-General Beckwith, who led the attack, had a narrow escape, a soldier being killed by his side. The loss of the enemy is stated at about 300 men.

After this action the enemy concentrated the whole of his force in Fort Bourbon. Major-General Maitland with his division moved from Lamentin, round the Cul de sac de Cohee, to point Negro; and Major Henderson, with his party, proceeded by water across Fort Royal Bay down to Cass Naviere, and took a position on the heights above it.

At the date of the last accounts from Martinique (the 6th ult.), preparations were making for an attack upon the works of Fort Bourbon, which were expected to be completed in eight or ten days.

The inhabitants of the island were at least neutral, if not friendly to our reduction of it. They had not in any instance annoyed our troops, and towards the squadron had shown great hospitality, having repeatedly supplied them with fruit, vegetables, &c.

An offer to surrender had been, it was said, sent by the inhabitants of St. Pierre's, but its immediate possession was considered of no consequence, as it must follow the fate of Fort Bourbon.

A New York Mail arrived yesterday morning, and brought us New York Papers to the 18th of February inclusive. A Non-Intercourse Bill is in its progress through Congress, by which the importation of British and French goods is to cease after the 20th of May, and the Embargo, as it respects all other Countries but Great Britain and France, was to be repealed on the 4th of this month.

The Peacock has brought dispatches to Government of the 23d ult. and from Cadiz of the 4th instant.—An insurrection at Cadiz took place on the 22d of February, the causes and the result of which are differently described.—The following account is believed to be the most correct of any:—

"The commotion took place on the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 22d. The cause was the aversion of the people to the introduction of the corps of Poles and Swiss (enlisted into the service of Spain from among the French prisoners), into the town of Cadiz, and the apprehended removal and disarmament of the Volunteers of Cadiz, in order to make room for them. The Marquis de Villel was arrested, and confined in the Castle; but it does not appear that any violence was offered to him. On the 23d, they demanded the person of Caraffa, late second in command of the Spanish troops in Portugal, and another, both of whom were confined in the Castle of Santa Catalina; but, by the interference of Colonel Roche, and some other British Officers, whose interposition was requested by Jones, the Governor, they were induced to desist from this demand. The only person put to death was Don Joseph Herida, who had just been dismissed from the office of Collector of Excise, and was seized as he was attempting to escape to St. Mary's in a boat.—On the 24th, every thing appeared quiet. The restoration of tranquillity was entirely, if not altogether, owing to the interposition of the British officers, who, while they professed the most determined resolution not to interpose with arms in any domestic dissention, declared they would fight to the last extremity in defending the town against the common enemy. When the last accounts came away, the people were busy in repairing the defences of the place, under the direction of British Officers, who were invited to superintend and direct their exertions."

Every article of intelligence from Spain confirms the inveteracy of the people against their invaders; but unless this spirit is properly regulated and directed it can only perpetuate the practices of massacre and assassination, without producing any real benefit to the cause.—The insurgents in France, in 1795 and 1796, did as much as this, until they were extirpated.

The French settlement of Cayenne, in South America, has been taken possession of by a united English and Portugueze force. The British were headed by the gallant Capt. Yeo. The noted Victor Hugues was the French Governor.

The Dutch Papers state the capture of his Majesty's frigate Proserpine, in the Mediterranean, by two French frigates, la Penelope and la Pauliniere; she was carried into Toulon. From the French official accounts, it appears that the Proserpine had been very audacious, frequently standing so close to the shore as to look into the port of Toulon. This provoked the French Admiral, who sent out against her the two above-mentioned frigates. Once she escaped by flight, but on a second occasion her pursuers came up with her about half-past four o'clock in the morning. An engagement ensued, which was fought close along side for three quarters of an hour; at length the Proserpine struck to her two opponents. The enemy states the Proserpine to have had 11 men killed and 15 wounded, and that both the French frigates came out of the action without the loss of a man killed or wounded.

Accounts in the Dutch Papers confirm our former advices of the French Ambassador having taken his departure from Vienna; and that all the Austrian Generals have set out to join their respective corps. Marshals Davoust and Massena have also set out to take the Command in Chief of the French Armies in Germany and Italy; and the division commanded by Oudinot has marched from Augsburgh, in order to take post upon the Inn. The armies of France, and those of her allies, are represented as consisting of 500,000 men; but at the same time the military force of Austria is admitted by the enemy's statements to be also very formidable. The Emperor of Austria was to set out on the 10th instant, accompanied by the Archduke Palatine, to review the numerous new levies in Hungary; and a great variety of war songs have been published at Vienna for the young warriors who are about to take the field.

An American vessel, called the Hiram, which had broken the embargo, has arrived at Greenock from Savannah. She has brought Papers to the 12th ult. A Resolution had been proposed in the House of Representatives, and referred to a Committee, proposing to authorize by law the merchant vessels of the United States to repel by force any attempt to search them by British or French armed vessels. If such law is passed, it must inevitably produce hostilities, as it would involve the very existence of our maritime rights and superiority. Another Resolution had been proposed, and referred for consideration, to repeal the Embargo laws, and to defend the navigation of the high seas against any nation violating by its edicts, orders or decrees, the lawful commerce and neutral rights of the United States. This also, if carried into effect, must lead to hostilities, as it directly refers to the use of force. These, however, were merely propositions, and may probably have been negatived. There is nothing said respecting the Non Intercourse Law, excepting that it was supposed to be the intention of the American Government to substitute a law of that description for the embargo, which was every day becoming more unpopular, and which had given rise to violent proceedings in opposition to it in several parts of the Union, particularly in the Eastern States.

A Flag of Truce has arrived at Dover from Boulogne, and two French Officers landed with dispatches for the Transport Board: it is therefore probable that their mission relates merely to an exchange of prisoners.

The gallant Palafox is stated, in an article dated Paris, March 12, to have died at Saragossa the beginning of the present month.

A duel was fought yesterday morning on Battersea Common, between Capt. Sibbett, belonging to a cavalry regiment, and Mr. Dawney, a Gentleman of fortune in Nottingham-street, in consequence of a dispute relative to the late discussions in Parliament, at an hotel in Oxford-street. The Captain was seriously wounded in the small of the arm on the second fire.

On Friday evening a number of respectable Electors of the City and Liberties of Westminster met at the Crown and Anchor, and resolved on a public meeting of the Inhabitants of Westminster, for the purpose of thanking Mr. Wardle for his patriotic conduct in bringing forward his Charges against the Duke of York; also to thank Sir Francis Burdett, Lord Folkstone, and Mr. Whitbread, for their assistance. The requisition was accepted by the High Bailiff, and the meeting will take place on Wednesday next.

LIVERY OF LONDON.

On Friday a Deputation from the Livery waited on the Lord Mayor with a Requisition for a Common Hall, a copy of which is contained in his Lordship's Answer:—

Mansion House, March 25, 1809.
Four o'Clock, P. M.

The Lord Mayor presents his compliments to Mr. Deputy Goodbehere, and in reply to the Requisition "to convene a Common Hall upon an early day to adopt such proceedings as may be thought necessary respecting the corrupt practices which have so long prevailed in the disposal of Commissions and Promotions in his Majesty's Land Forces, and other public abuses, in which the honour and interest of the Country are so deeply involved," has the honour to inform him, that it is of so general a nature, as in its present shape necessarily to preclude the Lord Mayor from complying with the wishes of the worthy Liverymen who have signed it; but if another Requisition be presented, more specific and explanatory of the Resolutions intended to be brought forward, the Lord Mayor will take such Requisition into immediate consideration.

Our "king of the city" then is determined not to have the same opinion as his counsellors. The destinies, I suppose, in their composition of the soul of this awful Lord Mayor, while they were stowing the knowledge of cheese in one place, and secreting the passion for parings in another, determined irrevocably, that in his unbounded compliances with his customers, he should have none left for his constituents. Well and good. If reform proceeds as it has begun, it will not be the greatest misfortune of the City to have had such a Ruler, because its experience will teach it to have no more of the same kind. Men who get their bread by war, depend also on places and Ministers: if contractors are the necessary nourishers of war, war is their nourishment at the same time: they feed the wild beast, and the wild beast affords them a living in return. Who can expect such men to help in emptying the Augean stable!

Official Papers.—Two sets of Official Papers relative to the late unfortunate Expedition to Spain, have been laid before Parliament. They consist principally of Letters from Lord Castlereagh to the British Officers employed in Spain, and clearly prove that the wretched plan of sending an army into the heart of Spain, was adopted by the British Cabinet alone, for Mr. Frere, who was to make a communication to the Supreme Junta at Madrid, did not arrive till the Spaniards had been annihilated in the North. Though Ministers had, or should have had, Agents in Spain from whom authentic information could have been obtained;—though such immense sums are yearly accounted for as expended in *secret services*,—Government had planned an Expedition, to support, as they said, the last struggle for Continental independence, without any knowledge of the state and ability of the country! This fact is fully proved by the following short extract from a letter written by the gallant Sir John Moore, dated at Salamanca, Nov. 24, in which he says:—"Had the real strength and composition of the Spanish armies *been known*, and the defenceless state of the country, I conceive that Cadiz, and not Corunna, would have been chosen for the disembarkation of the troops from England; and Seville or Cordóva, not Salamanca, would have been selected as the proper place for the assembling of this army."

The play of *The Honey Moon*, performed on Monday night at *The King's Theatre*, by the Drury-lane Company, was very numerously attended. The soliloquy of *Jaques*, at the end of the third act, produced an extraordinary effect:—Meditating upon his short-lived elevation, he says—"*It will be rather awkward, to be sure, to resign at the end of a month—but, like other great men in office, I must make the most of my time, and retire with a good grace, to avoid being turned out.*"—The audience instantly caught these words, and interrupted the *Mock Duke* with a roar of applause. It was some time before the uproar subsided, and Mr. Penley was able to finish the sentence, which runs thus—"*As a well-bred dog always walks down stairs, when he sees preparations on foot for kicking him into the street.*" Here the applause was revived, and continued for some minutes.—Among those who witnessed the scene was Mrs. Clarke.

Since the memorable year 1659, after the deposition of Richard Cromwell, when a council of General Officers, which met at Wallingford House, arrogated to themselves a right to interfere with and to over-rule the Civil power of the State, no attempt of that nature has been made, at once so indecorous, as the late Address intended to have been presented to the Commander in Chief by a club of General Officers.

A Morning Paper says, "It is not true as is stated by some of our cotemporaries, that Lady Charlotte Wellesley has returned to her much injured husband. That unfortunate woman has been recently received into the asylum of *her own family*, a measure brought about by the interposition of one of her relations. Mr. H. Wellesley continues much indisposed at the house of his brother, Mr. W. Pole, at Blackheath."

The Honourable Secretary, who has lately been so violent a stickler for the *purity of ancestry*, may quote the example of Dr. Johnson. The Doctor, who always argued in favour of illustrious descent and hereditary virtues, once said—"In all this I am very *disinterested*, for I can scarcely tell *who was my grandfather!*"

An advertizement has lately appeared in the *Post*, offering a handsome gratuity to any person who should bring a certain Book, which was never published, to a bookseller, who is named in the title page. There is good reason for believing that this unpublished Book contains the Report of the three Commissioners appointed to inquire into the conduct of the Princess of Wales, which inquiry was then pleasantly termed "*The Delicate Investigation.*"—This Report was laid before his Majesty. If our information be correct, this Book was printed under the eye of Mr. Perceval, who, for reasons best known to himself, suppressed the publication, and burnt the 10,000 copies in his own house. A few copies, however, have got abroad, which are now advertized for and bought up at an enormous price.

The *emoluments* lost by the Duke of York, in consequence of his resignation as Commander in Chief, are estimated by Military men at about 6000*l.* per annum. The appointments are 10*l.* a-day, besides an allowance for 50 horses, his travelling expenses defrayed, stationary, &c.

On Sunday last was interred, in the burial-ground of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the remains of Hugh Hewson, who died at the advanced age of 85. The deceased was a man of no mean celebrity; he was the identical Hugh Strap, whom Dr. Smollett has rendered so interesting in his Life and Adventures of Roderick Random, and for upwards of forty years had kept a hair-dresser's shop in the above parish. The deceased was a very intelligent man, and took delight in recounting the adventures of his early life. He spoke with pleasure of the time he passed in the service of the Doctor, and it was his pride, as well as boast, to say that he had been educated at the same seminary with so learned and distinguished a character. His shop was hung round with Latin quotations, and he would frequently point out to his customers and acquaintances the several scenes in Roderick Random pertaining to himself, which had their foundation, not in the Doctor's inventive fancy, but in truth and reality. The meeting in a barber's shop at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the subsequent mistake at the inn, their arrival together in London, and the assistance they experienced from Strap's friend, were all of that description. We understand the deceased has left behind him an interlined copy of Roderick Random, pointing out these facts, shewing how far they were indebted to the genius of the Doctor, and to what extent they were bottomed in reality. The deceased could never succeed in gaining more than a respectable subsistence by his trade, but he possessed an independence of mind superior to his humble condition. Of late years he was employed as Keeper of the Promenade in Villier's Walk, Adelphi.

FINE ARTS.

We are sorry we are obliged to omit A Critique on Mr. West's *Harmony of Affection*, and Mr. Davis's *Death of Nelson*, till next week, when Miss Linwood's Needlework Exhibition will also be noticed.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

Mr. Chalon's *Landscape and Cattle* has been purchased by Earl Grosvenor, and Mr. Dawe's *Imogen*, the successful prize picture, by Mr. H. Hope, who has also bought Mr. Howard's animated and poetical piece, *The first Navigator*.

The eyes of several of the Students have been nearly blinded by vanity, so that they are incapable of seeing their pictorial defects and their true interests. Thus Mr. Guest for his picture of the *Reposo*, asks 300 guineas, while even the President of the Royal Academy demands but 400 for his *Harmony of Affection*. So that even allowing Mr. West's to contain no more work than Mr. Guest's, the latter gentleman has the excess of modesty to conceive that his talent has the relative value with that of the former of 3 to 4! Mr. Harrison puts the same price on his badly coloured, badly composed, and badly expressed picture of *Horatio Cocles*; and Mr. Mulready the same for his *Carpenter's Shop*, a picture, which though excellent of its kind, has more of the elaborate finish of manual labour than of genius. In such high prices, these young men perhaps fancy they are maintaining the dignity of the Arts: instead of this, the Patrons are disgusted by the trial of vanity to impose on their judgments, and the young painters counteract the beneficent design of the Institution, by repelling that patronage which their rising genius if accompanied by modesty would be entitled to, and would as on former occasions receive.

R. H.

MISS TAYLOR.

The subscription for Miss Taylor, commenced by Mr. Corbett by a donation of 10*l.* has amounted in the course of a few days to nearly a thousand pounds. In the list are the names of Sir Henry Mildmay 10*l.*—Lord G. F. Osborne 10*l.*—Mr. Horne Tooke 10*l.*—The heroic Lord Cochrane 15*l.*—Mr. Whitbread 21*l.*—Lord Milton 21*l.*—Lord Folkstone, by no means a rich man, 26*l.*—Sir Francis Burdett 50*l.*—And Anonymous, left at Mr. Wardle's, 100*l.* The following are among the most curious and expressive appellations by which some of the subscribers at once conceal their names and avow their opinions:—

An Enemy to Brow-beating.
A consistent Englishman, who hopes to see the old-fashioned notions of English honour and generosity revived.
An Enemy to Corruption.
A Friend to the Old Constitution.
A Friend to fair play.
Justice by honest means.
An Enemy to York Principles.
An Enemy to Oppression as well as to Faction.
M. A. but no longer a suffragan of the Attorney General.
An Enemy to Oppression.
A Representative, not of the People, but himself.
A Friend to the oppressed.
An Enemy to the manners of the old French Court and to the Parliament of Paris.
An Impartial Observer and a Believer in Truth.
A Friend to the Victim of Unmanliness.
No Brow-beating.
No Calumniator.
No Croker.
A Female Enemy to Pensioned Voters.
In aid of the Unfortunate Friend of the Duke's "Dearest Darling!"
A Friend to an unplaced, unpensioned Parliament.
R. H. towards supporting a Character most maliciously treated.
The Honour of a Man in preference to the Honour of a Prince.
An Honest Man disgusted at the Honour of a Prince.
Manus hæc inimica Tyrannis (this Hand is the foe of Tyrants.)
W. S. An Old Friend to Parliamentary Reform, from a thorough and deep-rooted conviction that that measure, and that only, can preserve the Monarchy and Independence of the Country.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

An Inquisition was taken on Thursday, at Newington, on the body of Captain Tangley, belonging to a vessel in the river, who was found dead in a field near Newington on the preceding morning. It appeared in evidence that the deceased was found lying about ten yards from a foot path leading across the fields, with his head blown to atoms, and that Mr. Sunley, an upholsterer of Clerkenwell, heard the report of a pistol at about six o'clock in the morning, which proceeded from the spot where the deceased was found. There did not appear to be any person in the field at the time; and it was proved that the deceased had been in a dejected state two or three days previous to his leaving his vessel on Wednesday. Verdict—Insanity.

A Gentleman of great respectability, residing at Tottenham, being occasionally subject to fits, was seized on Saturday se'nnight with one of them, while he was taking a walk in the neighbourhood, and fell into a ditch, by which means he was suffocated. A Lady was passing at the time on horseback, with her groom, who requested permission to assist the unfortunate man, but his mistress would not allow him to stop for that purpose. The servant's humanity, however, did not suffer his mistress's orders to prevent him giving the alarm at the first house he could reach. Immediate assistance was then given, but it arrived too late to be of any use.

On Friday se'nnight a singular accident happened in Covent-garden. The driver of a market-cart, who had been wantonly beating his horse, was in the act of cutting the animal with a coach-whip, when the lash caught him round the neck, and the shock locked his jaw. In this situation he was conveyed to a surgeon for assistance, and his jaw was unlocked; but it locked again the same night, and he continued in a dangerous state till Sunday morning, when he expired.

DEATHS.

On Tuesday morning, in Grosvenor-square, her Grace the Duchess of Bolton.—Her Grace had been in a lingering state for a long time back, but from her great flow of spirits did not take to her bed until a few days previous to her dissolution.—She was in her 75th year.

On the 1st inst. at Pendennis Castle, Falmouth, where he was interred with military honours, Assistant Surgeon Samuel Brailsford, of the North Hants Militia, aged 20. His death was occasioned by a contagious fever, which he took during his close attention to the troops lately arrived there from Spain.—He endeared himself to every one by his amiable disposition and manners; and the high estimation in which he was held during life, is sufficiently evinced by the universal regret which has followed his death.

On the 11th inst. at Tiverton, Mrs. Cowley, well-known for her bad plays and worse poetry.

On Tuesday last, at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, after complicated afflictions of body and mind, Mr. E. E. Townsend, (late of Covent Garden Theatre) aged 43 years. He has left a widow, two children, and an orphan niece altogether unprovided for.

On Monday last, at her house in Gloucester-place, New-road, Mrs. Susannah Waterhouse, relict of the late Benjamin Waterhouse, Esq. of the island of Jamaica.

On Thursday se'nnight, at Horsforth, near Leeds, Mary Airton, aged 105.—Same day, Sarah Dean, aged 102.

On the 13th inst. at Barnstaple, Robert Wrey, Esq. in his 89th year, brother of the late Sir B. Wray, Bart. of Tavistock.

On Thursday, in Clipstone-street, Thos. Holcroft, Esq. author of the Road to Ruin, Hugh Trevor, and other works, in his 61st year. He has left a young wife and six children, the oldest only nine years, totally unprovided for.

Same day, at Stoke Newington, in the 21st year of her age, Mrs. Elmes, wife of Mr. James Elmes, architect, College-hill.

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